Ban on AXN Channel

969. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry's recent order banning AXN channel for three months is the second time that this channel has been charged with violating the Cable Television Network Regulations Act, so far;

(b) if so, whether AXN has become the sixth television channel to be banned in India, up till now;

(c) whether Government have also issued 203 show-cause notices, around one-third of them for telecasting obscenity, over the last two years, against the entertainment and news channels beaming into the country; and

(d) if so, what other steps Government propose to take against those channels who are violating the code?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) The distribution of AXN channel was prohibited in India with immediate effect *vide* Ministry's Order dated 17.01.2007 till 15.3.2007 which has been withdrawn *w.e.f.* 1.3.2007 subsequent to their submission of apology. In addition, advisory dated 30.3.2006 was issued to AXN Channel for telecast of a programme titled 'Men's World' on 18.1.2006, asking them to be more careful in choice of language, treatment of women and treatment of the subject in the programme and audio visual presentation to ensure strict conformity with the Programme Code.

(b) No, Sir. It is the ninth channel banned so far in India.

(c) During the last two years *i.e.* 2005 and 2006, 195 Show Cause Notices (SCNs) have been issued to the TV Channels for violations of Programme/Advertising Code prescribed under Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. A substantive number of these SCNs were issued for telecasting obscenity.

(d) The Central Government has constituted an Inter-ministerial Committee under Section 20 of the Cable Television Networks

(Regulation) Act, 1995 to look into the violation of the Programme Code and Advertising Code. The Committee either *suo-motu* or on receipt of complaint, examines cases of violation of the Code and recommends action to be taken by the Government. Show cause notices are issued in the first instance to TV channels for telecasting objectionable programmes/advertisements in violation of the Codes. Further action is taken as per rules.

Action against channels for telecasting objectionable content

970. SHRIMATI S G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had ordered action against one of the 290 channels on air;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that many channels were also under the watch of Government;

(d) whether Government had warned the channels again for any objectionable content; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Recently Government had ordered to ban AXN Channel in India with immediate effect *vide* Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Order dated 17.1.2007 up to 01.03.2007 which has been withdrawn with effect from 1.3.2007 subsequent to their submission of apology.

(c) All programmes of satellite TV channels transmitted or retransmitted through cable service are required to adhere to the provisions of the Programme/Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. With a view to look into the violation of the Programme/Advertising Codes, the Central Government has constituted an Inter-ministerial Committee under Section 20 of the Act. The Committee either *suo-motu* or on